


AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

 [0029] As best illustrated in Figure 5, the curved forefoot plate 40 includes a raised or thickened center portion or stiffening rib 48, extending from the center rear portion 47 of the curved forefoot plate 40 toward the center front portion 45 of the curved forefoot plate 40. Similar stiffening ribs 53 (Figure 4) may be found on the outer side edges of the curved forefoot plate. The stiffening rib 48 is angled slightly toward the big-toe of the wearer's foot so as to align with the forces and direction of movement of the wearer's foot during the phase of the gate cycle where there is a natural tendency for the wearer's foot to pronate inward. An arrow 42 in Figure 5 depicts the typical direction of this inward movement. The stiffening rib 48 is thicker and acts to hold the main body 35 of the midsole assembly 14 in a curved shape. The portions of the curved forefoot plate 40 adjacent to the stiffening rib 48 are thinner so as to help control the over-all stiffness of the curved forefoot plate 40.